

21, or the portion 26 excluding the surface layer 27. The chemical resistance of the surface layer 27 is lower than that of the inner portion 26.--

Please replace paragraph of page 12, lines 3-14 with the following amended paragraph:

--It is apparent from the measurement results that the number of calcium ions (Ca^{2+}) and magnesium ions (Mg^{2+}), which are alkaline earth metal ions, and aluminum ions (Al^{3+}) decreases at positions closer to ~~deeper from~~ the surface of the glass plate 21a. That is, the calcium ions, magnesium ions, and aluminum ions in the surface layer 27 are less than that in the inner portion 26. As for silicon ions (Si^{4+}) derived from silicon oxide, the number of ions is the same in the inner portion 26 and the surface layer 27. Accordingly, the content of silicon oxide in the surface layer 27 is relatively increased with respect to the inner portion 26 by the decrease of Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , and Al^{3+} .--

Please replace paragraph starting from the bottom of page 17 to page 18, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

--The ingredient ratio of silicon oxide in the surface layer 27 relative to the ingredient ratio of silicon oxide in the glass composition of the inner portion 26 is greater by more than 1.0 times but less than or equal to 1.2 times. This prevents the chemical resistance of the surface layer 27 from being excessively decreased. Thus, the surface of the glass plate 21a 21 is prevented from being rough due to washing.--

Please amend the abstract as follows: